Notice of Allowability		Application No.	Applicant(s)		
## Notice of Allowability Examiner		10/709,582	JOHNSON ET AL.		
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address—All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed, a Notice of Autowance (PTOL-58) or other appropriate communication with earlied in due course, THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOTICE OF ATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon pelition by the applicant. See 37 CPR 1.313 and MEPF 1309. 1. ☑ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment dated 1.3-05. 2. ☑ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.7. 3. ☑ The drawings filed on 14 May 2004 are accepted by the Examiner. 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). **Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ASBANDONIMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted. (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) ☐ herefor or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date	Notice of Allowability	Examiner			
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Art Unit: 3643

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the limitations of "...a split multi-belt conveyor having a plurality of proximately spaced conveyor belts extending in parallel along a path of conveyance having a plurality of uniform gaps therebetween; probing the meat cut with a probe assembly having a plurality of elongated laterally aligned probes operable to sense a fat to lean interface of the meat cut where each of said probes are aligned along one of the gaps; selectively driving the probe assembly with a drive effecting elevation and lowering of the probe assembly along a circular path for insertion and retraction of the probes..." in claim 1, the limitations of "...probing a meat cut with a probe assembly having a plurality of elongated laterally aligned probes operable to sense a fat to lean interface of a meat cut where each of said probes are aligned along one of a plurality of gaps between a plurality of proximately spaced conveyor belts; selectively driving the probe assembly with a drive effecting elevation and lowering of the probe assembly along a circular path for insertion and retraction of the probes..." in both of claims 4 and 6, are not found in combination in the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Application/Control Number: 10/709,582

Art Unit: 3643

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J Parsley whose telephone number is (703) 306-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on 9hr compressed.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (703) 308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Parsley
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643

PETER M. POON SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER Page 3

1/7/05